

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

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(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – Pentagon Officials announced today that, in the event of a federal government shutdown, American troops will continue to fight, but [will not receive pay](#) . Russ Carnahan and others have called for members of Congress to join them in going without pay. But according to NBC's First Read political blog,

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[**GOP leaders refuse to bring the ‘clean’ – or unattached – Senate-passed salary language up for a vote on the House floor.**](#)
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In response, Russ Carnahan (D-MO) offered the following statement:

“How low have we sunk? Our troops are fighting right now to protect American lives, and my Republican colleagues demand pay – even when our troops would go without?”

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“A government shutdown would seriously endanger our fragile economic recovery, and I am ready to negotiate at any time to end this bickering and avert the coming crisis. Letting a shutdown happen would be asking our troops to keep fighting without pay. That’s wrong.

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“I urge my Republican colleagues to come back to the negotiating table. But if they decide it’s not in their political interests to continue negotiations, the least they can do is drop their demands for pay while our troops go without.”

Carnahan signed a letter to House Speaker John Boehner last week urging him to take up legislation prohibiting members of Congress from receiving pay in the event of a shutdown. The Senate has already passed standalone legislation prohibiting Congressional “shutdown pay,” so if passed in the House it would go directly to President Obama’s desk to be signed into law.

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